

In the specification:

Please delete the first sentence of the specification and substitute the following sentence therefor:

application is a division of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/074,567 filed on May 7, 1998, now U.S. Patent No. 6,044,621, which

—This[^] is a division of U.S. Patent Application Serial No.

08/839,974 filed on April 24, 1997, ^{now abandoned,} which application is a

continuation-in-part (CIP) of U.S. Patent Application Serial No.

08/651,977 filed on May 21, 1996[^] _{now U.S. Patent No. 5,672,009}

Page 12, line 1, change "one" to --on--.

Page 13, line 12, insert --a package-- before "110".

In the claims:

Please cancel claims 1, 2 and 3.

Please amend claim 4 as follows:

4. (Amended) A method for attaching a zipper strip transversely on a sheet of thermoplastic sheet material during the production of plastic bags or packages having transverse zippers on a form-fill-and-seal machine, said sheet being advanced in amounts equal in length to that of the bags or packages being manufactured, a length of zipper strip being attached each time said sheet is brought to rest, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a zipper strip having interlocked male and female interlocking profiles, one of said male and female interlocking profiles having a web wider than that of the other on at least